

Sentence E quivalence

Select the tw o answ er choices that,w hen used to com plete the sentence,fit the m eaning of the sentence as a w hole and produce com pleted sentences that are alike in m eaning.

1.W hile the colonists w ould eventually push w estw ard,first,they w ere in for a long,difficult w inter,and the m ain challenge w as to _____ their existing resources.

- ☐ sell
- ☐ peddle
- ☐ stew ard
- ☐ upend
- ☐ husband
- ☐ procure

2.Jam es Joyce,the author of m any novels,including *Lady C hatterley's Lover*,saw deeply into the hearts of his characters,but,in a life irony as subtle yet piercing as those endured by his characters,he him self could barely _____ text w ell enough to proof his ow n galleys.

- ☐ see
- ☐ feel
- ☐ w alk
- ☐ m ove
- ☐ distinguish
- ☐ interpret

3.Em blem atic of the slaughter of the First W orld W ar,60,000 B ritish soldiers died for naught on the first day of the battle of the Som m e,literally consum ed into a stew of blood and _____.

- ☐ grief
- ☐ gore
- ☐ steel
- ☐ bullets
- ☐ carnage
- ☐ anguish

4.Forty years ago,anthropologists firm ly believed that N eanderthals and m odern *hom o sapiens* never m ated,but advances in genetic testing proved that incorrect — such is the _____ nature of science.

- ☐ fallacious
- ☐ evolving
- ☐ counterfactual
- ☐ advancing
- ☐ vacillating

☐ undetermined

5. The daily routine of responding to lobbyists and exchanging polemics with intransigent political opponents seemed at odds with the president's _____ tendencies.

- ☐ tenacious
- ☐ idealistic
- ☐ dialectical
- ☐ contentious
- ☐ quixotic
- ☐ altruistic

6. A field trip was arranged so that this troupe of _____ dancers could observe the real masters of their art.

- ☐ seasoned
- ☐ fledgling
- ☐ expert
- ☐ torpid
- ☐ novice
- ☐ lithe

7. The exhibit is not so much a retrospective as a _____; the artist's weaker early work is glossed over, and any evidence of his ultimate dissolution is absent entirely.

- ☐ paeon
- ☐ philippic
- ☐ tirade
- ☐ panacea
- ☐ eulogy ☐

crescendo

8. After a long, hard practice in the summer sun, the players were visibly _____.

- ☐ flagging
- ☐ hale
- ☐ lissome
- ☐ loathsome
- ☐ vigorous
- ☐ enervated

9. Nothing evoked memories of her grandmother's house like the _____ of scents associated with the holiday feast.

- ☐ paucity
- ☐ anomaly
- ☐ olio
- ☐ mélange
- ☐ dearth
- ☐ pilfering

10. Unlike the politician's earlier evasions and equivocations, this latest statement is a _____ lie.

- ☐ bald
- ☐ tacit
- ☐ overt
- ☐ didactic
- ☐ rhetorical
- ☐ implicit

11. Possessed of a lighthearted approach to life, Winnie thought that those who were _____ in regards to values and mores missed out on a certain liveliness and spontaneity.

- ☐ lax
- ☐ equable
- ☐ priggish
- ☐ redoubtable
- ☐ impious
- ☐ punctilious

12. After a second _____ attempt by Margulies to make a simple shot, the coach put him on the bench for the rest of the game.

- ☐ restless
- ☐ flawless
- ☐ bootless
- ☐ indefatigable
- ☐ feckless
- ☐ auspicious

13. While he says that he did not mean to kill, some feel that his actions are _____ murder.

- ☐ preceded by
- ☐ on par with
- ☐ superseded by
- ☐ an homage to
- ☐ an accrual of
- ☐ tantamount to

14. For most of the 20th century, American political contentions reflected pragmatic rather than ideological differences; candidate debates centered around whether programs were _____.

- ☐ partisan
- ☐ voluble
- ☐ feasible
- ☐ innocuous
- ☐ prejudiced
- ☐ viable

15. Though considered a somewhat somber drama at the time of its release in 1975, the film *Shampoo*, about a philandering hairdresser, now seems more the _____ comedy.

- ☐ puckish ☐
- uninhibited

- ☐ prurient
- ☐ wry
- ☐ dated ☐
- puritanical

16. During the German occupation of France, the draconian measures of the occupiers met armed resistance from civilian _____, inspired by desperate conditions to fight in their own streets.

- ☐ poets
- ☐ fighters
- ☐ writers
- ☐ mercenaries
- ☐ politicians
- ☐ partisans

17. Representative government arose in part from dissatisfaction with too many monarchs making _____ decisions without regard for precedents.

- ☐ capricious
- ☐ considered
- ☐ malicious
- ☐ pessimistic
- ☐ insidious
- ☐ erratic

18. Because the Lewis and Clark expedition through the West was conceived primarily as a mapping project, government officials were _____ by the wealth of information on a myriad of topics that the explorers gathered.

- ☐ aggravated
- ☐ flabbergasted
- ☐ crushed
- ☐ bedazzled
- ☐ bored ☐
- disappointed

19. Only by ignoring Afghanistan's long history as a military quagmire could pundits pontificate that fresh infusions of men and material would lead to _____ victory.

- ☐ fleeting
- ☐ contingent
- ☐ expeditious
- ☐ ephemeral
- ☐ swift
- ☐ pyrrhic

20. Geneticists find Iceland a living laboratory for the study of _____ because virtually all of its current 300,000 citizens descend from less than a thousand Icelanders who survived the medieval Black Death.

- ☐ diversity ☐
- revivification

- ☐ therapy
- ☐ history
- ☐ mutation ☐
- rejuvenation

21. Given the influx of information via social media, the only way that a person can function effectively is to _____, to metaphorically separate the wheat from the chaff.

- ☐ delete
- ☐ triage
- ☐ prioritize
- ☐ respond
- ☐ requite ☐
- eliminate

22. Although accommodating in person, George Orwell _____ defended his political positions in print.

- ☐ tenaciously
- ☐ obsequiously
- ☐ inadvertently
- ☐ doggedly
- ☐ sycophantically
- ☐ idiosyncratically

23. Although historically, paints were often tinted with toxic elements such as lead, cadmium, and mercury, _____ number of painters lived to be seventy, eighty, and even ninety.

- ☐ an incomprehensible
- ☐ a flabbergasting
- ☐ an impossible
- ☐ a confounding
- ☐ a dismaying
- ☐ an enlightening

24. The phrase "gilding the lily" is a late 19th century expression that sneered at the ostentatious gestures of some of the newly rich, such as applying gold gilt to the carved lilies on the entrances of their Beau-Arts homes; for decades, it then served as a shorthand for any _____ and showy behavior.

- ☐ gauche
- ☐ eccentric
- ☐ idiosyncratic
- ☐ idiotic
- ☐ irredentist
- ☐ uncouth

25. In 1905, there were only fourteen automobiles in the United States, yet, _____ enough, two of them ran into each other in St. Louis.

- ☐ justifiably
- ☐ ironically
- ☐ inevitably

- ☐ deservedly
- ☐ ludicrously
- ☐ lam entably

26.A “M ycenaeen w aist” refers to the taut,im possibly sm all w aists characteristic of certain ancient draw ings found on C rete,and it certainly does not _____ any characteristic of m odern,overw eight W estern societies.

- ☐ deify
- ☐ depict
- ☐ denigrate
- ☐ m irror
- ☐ defam e
- ☐ distort

27.In the 19th century,Thom as C arlyle called econom ics “the dism al science,” in part because of M althus’s theory that population grow th w ould outpace our natural resources,causing w idespread _____.

- ☐ dearth
 - ☐ pulchritude
 - ☐ rapture
 - ☐ ravishm ent
 - ☐ fam ine ☐
- debauchery

28.In uncertain tim es,_____ theories often gain greater and faster adherence am ong the populace than proven ones do.

- ☐ corroborated
 - ☐ putative
 - ☐ conjectural
 - ☐ assayed
 - ☐ irrefutable ☐
- irreconcilable

29.W hile the legend of C uster’s last stand is com m only accepted and oft cited as an exam ple of fortitude in the face of adversity,recent studies of the rem ains indicate that,_____,m any soldiers chose suicide rather than risk capture by the Sioux.

- ☐ surprisingly
- ☐ risibly
- ☐ tragically
- ☐ rem arkably
- ☐ am usingly
- ☐ horribly

30.In the early 1920’s,Paul C assirer,a B erlin art dealer,w as fam ous not only for his clients,such as R enoir,but also for _____ a credulous art w orld by correctly exposing several purported V an G ogh w orks as forgeries.

- ☐ deluding
- ☐ apprising
- ☐ counseling

- ☐ depressing
- ☐ indicting ☐
- m isleading

31. Arthur Conan Doyle's upstanding hero Sherlock Holmes engages in just as much clever deception as his nemesis, Professor Moriarty, proving that _____ is not inherently evil.

- ☐ immorality
- ☐ brilliance
- ☐ cunning
- ☐ subterfuge
- ☐ wrongdoing
- ☐ judgment

32. The etymologies of the words *alpha* and *omega* couldn't be more different; the former is obscure—the original symbol for *alpha* was an ox's head, and an ox is 'alp in Phoenician—while the latter is _____, as *omega* simply means "big O."

- ☐ transparent
- ☐ complicated
- ☐ overt
- ☐ erudite
- ☐ abstruse
- ☐ scholarly

33. While the muted colors do suggest a certain sobriety, the overall effect is undeniably _____.

- ☐ vivacious
- ☐ poignant
- ☐ dull
- ☐ lackluster
- ☐ mirthful
- ☐ benign

34. Although the system's _____ is not currently in dispute at the national level, increasing local allegations of preferential treatment are threatening to change the situation.

- ☐ unfairness
- ☐ solemnity
- ☐ probity
- ☐ equity
- ☐ partiality ☐
- solicitousness

35. Aghast at the indiscretion, the politician took a symbolic vow of _____, hoping that public attention to the matter would quickly wane.

- ☐ silence
- ☐ chastity
- ☐ openness ☐
- transparency

- ☐ quietus
- ☐ revenge

36.A petty man obsessed with—but in perpetual doubt about— his own power, he surrounded himself with subordinates who could best be described as _____.

- ☐ sages
- ☐ myrmidons
- ☐ sycophants
- ☐ quacks
- ☐ ascetics
- ☐ sirens

37.While traveling to the spa's remote location could be hectic, visitors to the spa more than made up for the stress by unwinding in a supremely _____ environment.

- ☐ effusive
- ☐ pacific
- ☐ duplicitous
- ☐ censorious
- ☐ placid
- ☐ blithe

38.The man looked much older than his 70 years, his _____ frame looking as though it had endured at least 40 years in the desert; although the casting director had initially pictured a more physically robust Moses, the actor was, in the end, perfect for the role.

- ☐ fetid
- ☐ incendiary
- ☐ desiccated
- ☐ wizened
- ☐ arid
- ☐ hale

39.The children's attempt at a Mother's Day brunch was _____; soggy French toast, lukewarm coffee, and a syrup fight in the kitchen that would inevitably end up being cleaned up by the very recipient of the brunch.

- ☐ convivial
- ☐ amiable
- ☐ risible
- ☐ satirical
- ☐ farcical
- ☐ labile

40.In a place rife with both poverty and crime, some cautioned the young student that to _____ about with his fancy phone and designer clothing was only to invite trouble.

- ☐ sprint
- ☐ gallivant
- ☐ tergiversate
- ☐ traipse

☐ digress ☐
equivocate

41. Though the subject of the museum exhibit had been an astute politician and strategist in his day, not even his most vociferous apologists could drum up interest among a modern public for a retrospective of a career so marked by _____ views on social issues.

☐ erudite
☐ erroneous
☐ serene
☐ scholarly
☐ passé
☐ archaic

42. Just months from retirement, the disgraced executive was forced to make _____ exit from the company.

☐ a peppery
☐ a triumphant
☐ a boorish
☐ an ignominious
☐ a defiled
☐ an unseemly

43. _____ in scandal, the company could regain favor with customers only through mass firings of guilty executives.

☐ Wallowing
☐ Stoic
☐ Battered
☐ Resplendent
☐ Mired
☐ Besotted

44. From the battle's opening volleys to its bloody conclusion, the forces of destruction razed a path through the city, ultimately leaving behind an eerie stillness where there once had been streets and squares _____ with life.

☐ flouting
☐ assaying
☐ teeming
☐ stewing
☐ abounding
☐ vaunting

45. By framing the new law as a question of urgent safety rather than of privacy, the government obviated the need to pass through the standard channels of legislation, effectively _____ all formal dissent and relegating any would-be naysayer from a position of engaged activist to that of powerless bystander.

☐ curtailing
☐ undermining
☐ targeting
☐ lobbying

- ☐ instigating
- ☐ facilitating

46. Exactly which bird species fell victim first to the deadly virus is the subject of ongoing controversy; what is known, however, is that it took but a slight mutation in the pathogen's genetic constitution to render it lethal to _____ of related species.

- ☐ a contraband
- ☐ a surplus
- ☐ an aurora
- ☐ a myriad
- ☐ a pantheon
- ☐ a plethora

47. The coastline of the region plays home predominantly to a community of cosseted elites; aside from the tolerated presence of a smattering of _____ abodes, the area is practically inundated with opulent estates, which boast a variety of architectural styles from the neo-classical to the Gilded Age.

- ☐ ramshackle
- ☐ contiguous
- ☐ archaic
- ☐ garlanded
- ☐ underestimated
- ☐ dilapidated

48. An antiquated rifle and a revolutionary spirit were the only things in the possession of the young _____ as he forded the perilous canyon stream and wended his way up the opposite bank in hopes of joining forces with the insurgent militia.

- ☐ myrmidon
 - ☐ rascalion
 - ☐ defector
 - ☐ quisling
 - ☐ deity ☐
- devotee

49. After many hours of debate, things seemed to have reached _____, as neither side was willing to give so much as an inch, and no one had anything new to offer.

- ☐ an impasse
- ☐ a pause
- ☐ a timeout
- ☐ a confrontation
- ☐ an engagement
- ☐ a stalemate

50. While kidney stones are known to produce a truly _____ sensation, often compared to the agony of childbirth, they are almost never fatal.

- ☐ anodyne
- ☐ inoffensive

- ☐ painstaking
- ☐ tortuous
- ☐ excruciating
- ☐ torturous

51. Chris Anderson, editor of *Wired* magazine, has always been a huge _____ of the philosophy that all information "wants to be free"; interesting, then, that his latest book retailed for \$29.99, and *Wired* still charges for subscriptions.

- ☐ detractor
- ☐ champion
- ☐ gadfly
- ☐ chump
- ☐ critic ☐
- proponent

52. The director of the musical admitted that while he was very good with characterization, scenery, lighting, and music, choreography was not at all his _____.

- ☐ strong suit
- ☐ weakness
- ☐ forte
- ☐ hobby
- ☐ deficiency
- ☐ pastime

53. Though most technology used in the manufacture of bicycles is either decades old or adapted from other industries, the advent of carbon fiber frames brought with it genuine _____.

- ☐ innovation
- ☐ antiquity
- ☐ flexibility
- ☐ venerability
- ☐ novelty ☐
- seriousness

54. The long history of such _____ Western religious traditions as Kabbalah and theosophy suggest that it is wrong to associate mysticism only with the East.

- ☐ foreign
- ☐ devout
- ☐ exotic
- ☐ esoteric
- ☐ eccentric
- ☐ arcane

55. Sometimes _____ comes at a price; research suggests that among first-generation Chinese Americans, those who embrace the traditional Confucian values of their homeland are more likely to succeed academically than are those who do not.

- ☐ acculturation

- ☐ assimilation
- ☐ investiture
- ☐ alienation
- ☐ indebtedness
- ☐ estrangem ent

56.Many Enlightenm ent philosophers view ed M achiavelli’s book as a satire m eant to expose and caricature the _____ claim s to pow er of the very figures M achiavelli pretended to endorse.

- ☐ sarcastic
- ☐ specious
- ☐ spurious
- ☐ squalid
- ☐ stolid
- ☐ stoic

57.The defendant im pressed the jurors as _____;they did not believe that a w om an of her education and experience could possibly be as naïve as she acted.

- ☐ disingenuous
- ☐ guileless
- ☐ innocent
- ☐ accom plished
- ☐ artful ☐ culpable

58.C rucial to fostering a realistic understanding of the potential boons— and perils— of the new drug w ill be a concerted effort to _____ the specific contexts and sym ptom s that render its use appropriate.

- ☐ furnish
- ☐ delineate
- ☐ outlaw
- ☐ transm ute
- ☐ stipulate
- ☐ proscribe

59.Tw o m onths after the first shots of the A m erican R evolution w ere fired,the B ritish offered a pardon to any rebels w illing to lay dow n arm s,excepting only Sam uel A dam s and John H ancock,w hose offenses the com m anding B ritish officer considered too _____ to forgive.

- ☐ effectual
- ☐ fruitful
- ☐ flagitious
- ☐ boorish
- ☐ heinous
- ☐ m artial

60.R obert G ottlieb,w ho otherw ise found m uch to adm ire in John Steinbeck,argued that he w as politically _____,offering an adolescent disaffection in place of settled judgm ent.

- ☐ naïve

- ☐ perspicacious
- ☐ contemptible
- ☐ keen
- ☐ callow ☐
- disinterested

61. Employees who demonstrate too much alacrity in the workplace often find themselves being assigned work left unfinished by their more _____ co-workers.

- ☐ torpid
- ☐ solemn
- ☐ tepid
- ☐ saturnine
- ☐ sedulous
- ☐ solicitous

62. In his writings after visiting New York, Albert Camus expressed more of an inkling rather than a _____ understanding of what he found lacking in American culture.

- ☐ elementary
- ☐ shrewd
- ☐ penetrating
- ☐ inchoate
- ☐ sinuous
- ☐ dialectical

63. With private funding streams drying up right and left, the researcher was delighted to be suddenly freed of grant-writing responsibilities and able to pursue _____ federally-subsidized research.

- ☐ haphazardly
- ☐ partially
- ☐ full-bore
- ☐ high-handedly
- ☐ impeccably
- ☐ wholly

64. It is in the best interest of criminal defendants to appear _____ in front of the judge, showing that not all moral sympathy is lost on them.

- ☐ callous
- ☐ vindicated
- ☐ contrite
- ☐ penitential
- ☐ messianic
- ☐ pious

65. After hours of tedious test taking, the applicant was exhausted and could feel his acuity _____.

- ☐ flag
- ☐ soar
- ☐ ebb

- ☐ energize
- ☐ metabolize
- ☐ satiate

66. Despite the blandishments of the real estate con artist, the intended market remained _____ about the value of the plot for sale, as, on the map, it seemed to border a swamp.

- ☐ optimistic
- ☐ enthused
- ☐ irascible
- ☐ skeptical
- ☐ jaundiced
- ☐ leery

67. Like the characters she played, the ingénue always seemed _____ when auditioning for directors, but, on the set, this almost supine attitude fell away, revealing an implacable unwillingness to compromise her artistic vision.

- ☐ sardonic
- ☐ naïve
- ☐ tractable
- ☐ innocent
- ☐ amenable
- ☐ articulate

68. In the week that followed the climber's disappearance, Internet rumor mongers blogged a myriad of _____ reports of her demise, only to be embarrassed by the release of a dramatic video that showed her celebrating on the summit.

- ☐ apocryphal
- ☐ apocalyptic
- ☐ sentimental
- ☐ spurious
- ☐ saccharine
- ☐ scandalous

69. In agitprop theatre, actors, passing as civilians, incite others to public protest; while some consider such actions virtuous, others would label them a _____ trick.

- ☐ glib
- ☐ contemptible
- ☐ faddish
- ☐ sophisticated
- ☐ scurvy
- ☐ scintillating

70. The tragedy — and the resultant horrific loss of life and damage to property — occurred because of his _____ approach to his duties, evinced by his slouching posture and cavalier attitude.

- ☐ murderous
- ☐ petty

- ☐ lax
- ☐ aristocratic
- ☐ barbarous
- ☐ slack

71. The doctor's unapproved "health juice" first won him fortune, but then, after several deaths, infamy as a _____.

- ☐ sap
- ☐ dupe
- ☐ quack
- ☐ shyster
- ☐ sage
- ☐ pundit

72. Although they were already late for the formal reception, the couple continued to _____ because they preferred to lounge about and bask in each other's company.

- ☐ lurk
- ☐ dally
- ☐ tarry
- ☐ skulk
- ☐ embrace
- ☐ equivocate

73. The player's exploits both on the field and in the finest night clubs around the world earned him many _____ from his legions of staunch admirers — so many, in fact, that his given name was all but forgotten.

- ☐ similes
- ☐ appellations
- ☐ sobriquets
- ☐ misnomers
- ☐ neologisms
- ☐ aliases

74. Most people erroneously believe that the horror of biological warfare was a new and terrible invention of the late 20th century; however, 18th century British generals, with the blessings of their pastors, won a war with American Indians threatening colonial settlements by gifting them the blankets used by smallpox patients, causing a disease outbreak that virtually exterminated the _____ population.

- ☐ pandemic
- ☐ homogeneous
- ☐ indigenous
- ☐ ecumenical
- ☐ indignant
- ☐ native

75. The presidential candidate, known not only for the deeply reasoned content of his prepared speeches but also for the fiery brilliance of his delivery, badly miscalculated his ability to perform equally successfully when delivering _____ answers to unexpected queries from the media.

- ☐ extem poraneous
- ☐ capricious
- ☐ lubricious
- ☐ disingenuous
- ☐ im prom ptu
- ☐ prem editated

76.Perhaps understandably because of the carnage caused by the terrorist attack,the m ayor could not help but _____ over the terrible decisions to be m ade,even though his subordinates on the scene passionately im plored him to act im m ediately,one going so far as to quote D avid Farragut: “D am n the torpedoes,full speed ahead.”

- ☐ equivocate
- ☐ divagate
- ☐ w eep
- ☐ pine
- ☐ vacillate
- ☐ w ail

77.To avoid a lengthy prison term ,the convicted financier signed a binding docum ent delineating the m illions in fines and restitution that she m ust pay,and another legal m em orandum in w hich she _____ her form er role and financial interest in the hedge fund she had founded.

- ☐ abjured
- ☐ jeopardized
- ☐ reneged
- ☐ deposed
- ☐ censured
- ☐ forw ent

78.The rem ark w as intended as som ething of a _____,even if it sounded anodyne on the surface.

- ☐ com plim ent
- ☐ slight
- ☐ gibe
- ☐ profundity
- ☐ panegyric
- ☐ m axim

79.The fam ous bank robber John D illinger w ould never have been captured but for the _____ of A na C um pāna\$, a friend of his w ho had been hiding him in the brothel that she ow ned.

- ☐ assiduousness
 - ☐ perfidy
 - ☐ nosiness
 - ☐ m eddling
 - ☐ treachery ☐
- condem nation

80.The _____ of the new sm artphone m ay lead one to think that the m anufacturer m ust be raking in the cash,

but so little profit is made on each unit that sales of the phone barely affect the bottom line.

- ☐ expenditure
- ☐ construction
- ☐ ubiquity
- ☐ aesthetics
- ☐ cost
- ☐ omnipresence

81. Though the majority of rules in sports are physically described in rulebooks, there is a _____ code of conduct that relates to sportsmanship.

- ☐ tacit
- ☐ evanescent
- ☐ incorrigible
- ☐ unambiguous
- ☐ blatant
- ☐ implicit

82. The reviewer opined that action film directors like Michael Bay seem to find elements like characterization and emotional development _____ to a good movie, whereas more critically-acclaimed directors see them as — pun intended — “critical.”

- ☐ intrinsic
- ☐ ridiculous
- ☐ important
- ☐ extraneous
- ☐ explosive
- ☐ peripheral

83. Sandra was entirely _____ by the crossword puzzle which, unlike the simple fill-in-the-blanks published on weekdays, was one of the more difficult cryptic crosswords only published on weekends.

- ☐ confounded
- ☐ flummoxed
- ☐ enraged
- ☐ smitten
- ☐ incensed
- ☐ impressed

84. The argument that both political parties engage in similar levels of dishonesty is a _____ one; while you can certainly point to individual instances of chicanery on the parts of both parties, one side has built its entire platform on lies.

- ☐ sophomoric
- ☐ specious
- ☐ sweeping
- ☐ generalized
- ☐ powerful
- ☐ meretricious

85. The subject of the documentary was not bothered that the documentary received such _____ from the critics, but that none of the money or acclaim filtered down to him.

- ☐ opprobrium
- ☐ wealth
- ☐ fulmination
- ☐ approbation
- ☐ plaudits
- ☐ capital

86. *The Thin Blue Line*, a documentary by Errol Morris, is one of a very few movies that has had a tangible effect on the real world; the film managed to _____ its subject, who had been on death row for a crime that Morris proves, fairly definitively, that the man did not commit.

- ☐ exculpate
- ☐ liberate
- ☐ inter
- ☐ excuse
- ☐ manifest
- ☐ vindicate

87. Multi-level marketing schemes prey on people _____ promises of quick riches, and sales rewards such as fancy cars and vacations.

- ☐ aggrieved by
- ☐ beguiled by
- ☐ enamored with
- ☐ obsessed by
- ☐ vexed by ☐

possessed by

88. According to Buddhist thought, the mark of a truly great soul is the ability to retain one's _____ in the face of turmoil and tribulation.

- ☐ conviction
- ☐ self-esteem
- ☐ pride
- ☐ equanimity
- ☐ denotation
- ☐ sangfroid

89. In a way, the environmental movement can still be said to be _____ movement, for while it has been around for decades, only recently has it become a serious organization associated with political parties and platforms.

- ☐ an incipient
- ☐ a disorganized
- ☐ a nascent
- ☐ a nebulous
- ☐ an inconsequential
- ☐ an immaterial

90. Einstein's idea that electromagnetic radiation was divided into a finite number of "energy quanta" was purely experiential until it was theoretically _____ by the work of physicists such as Louis de Broglie and Werner Heisenberg.

- ☐ bolstered
- ☐ undermined
- ☐ condoned
- ☐ pardoned
- ☐ sabotaged
- ☐ buttressed

91. We tried to call her over to where we were standing, down at the edge of the stage, but she couldn't hear us over the _____.

- ☐ clamor
- ☐ music
- ☐ rabble
- ☐ amplifier
- ☐ din
- ☐ host

92. The painter was just as famous for his personality as for his work; unlike the many pretentious and pontificating men in his field, he was known to be entirely _____.

- ☐ artless
- ☐ shrewd
- ☐ ingenuous
- ☐ klutzy
- ☐ adroit
- ☐ artful

93. The newest romantic comedy wasn't exactly bad, but simply _____; it had laughs, but they were all jokes you'd heard before.

- ☐ atrocious
- ☐ amusing
- ☐ trite
- ☐ hackneyed
- ☐ witty ☐
- egregious

94. An obsession with aesthetics _____ all the work of the computer company; even their unsuccessful products manage to look like pieces of modernist sculpture.

- ☐ underpins
- ☐ irradiates
- ☐ underserves
- ☐ overwhelms
- ☐ undergirds
- ☐ saturates

95. Often when administrators force teachers to cleave too closely to a federal curriculum, those teachers feel _____, because the mandatory curriculum curbs their sense of being creative and dynamic educators.

- ☐ crushed
- ☐ confounded
- ☐ thwarted
- ☐ undermined
- ☐ terminated
- ☐ walloped

96. The Fed knows that a certain level of financial stability can be attained by lowering interest rates, yet if it overuses this power, it risks losing its most reliable means of _____ a crisis.

- ☐ interring
- ☐ exacerbating
- ☐ annihilating
- ☐ palliating
- ☐ compounding
- ☐ assuaging

97. Even though Mariposa loved taking on roles that involved a lot of lines, she was excited to be playing a more _____ character, which would require her to focus more on gesture and expression.

- ☐ laconic
- ☐ dramatic
- ☐ dejected
- ☐ curt
- ☐ mute
- ☐ melancholy

98. Most physics textbooks are dense and abstruse, whereas Richard Feynman can describe the most recondite mysteries with impressive _____.

- ☐ luridness
- ☐ sagacity
- ☐ prowess
- ☐ panache
- ☐ limpidity
- ☐ lucidity

99. The beauty queen's mother could not believe her daughter had been disqualified for hitting one of the judges with her baton, and she would not be _____ by the official's offer of a free steak dinner.

- ☐ placated
- ☐ implicated
- ☐ mollified
- ☐ pleased
- ☐ ameliorated
- ☐ deterred

100. Though Hamlet is famous for being _____, he still manages to go on something of a killing spree in

Shakespeare's play, proving that he is hardly paralyzed with depression.

- ☐ indecisive
- ☐ melancholy
- ☐ monological
- ☐ morose
- ☐ violent
- ☐ barbaric

101. It's worth wondering if the increase in diagnoses of psychological disorders has caused us to see certain behaviors that were once considered normal as _____.

- ☐ importunate
- ☐ mythical
- ☐ unfortunate
- ☐ anomalous
- ☐ aberrant
- ☐ fabulous

102. Proust proved that the _____ can be the domain of the novel every bit as much as the fantastical.

- ☐ mundane
- ☐ literary
- ☐ bombastic
- ☐ cosmopolitan
- ☐ belletristic
- ☐ quotidian

103. The magazine's editor was known to be a very busy woman, so it was important when speaking with her to get right to the _____ of the issue.

- ☐ pith
- ☐ conclusion
- ☐ gist
- ☐ apex
- ☐ genesis ☐
- culmination

104. While environmental concerns continue to _____, most climate scientists say the interest comes too late, as we've already passed the proverbial tipping point.

- ☐ disseminate
- ☐ burgeon
- ☐ mushroom
- ☐ promulgate
- ☐ concatenate
- ☐ indemnify

105. The government interpreted the enemy's decision to move their army to the borderline as _____ act of aggression.

- ☐ an explicit
- ☐ an extant
- ☐ an im pudent
- ☐ a bellicose
- ☐ an overt
- ☐ a belligerent

106.The saying “Tim e stops for no m an” also applies to rock and roll;once the rebellious sound of the young,it _____ becam e part of the culture of the old,just as had every preceding style of m usic.

- ☐ inevitably
- ☐ accidentally
- ☐ deliberately
- ☐ unavoidably
- ☐ resolutely
- ☐ painfully

107.Isherw ood’s sym pathy for com m unism during the interw ar period w as not only a reaction against fascism ,but also a m ark of his fellow feeling for the laboring classes and his _____ to engage as an equal w ith w orking people.

- ☐ disinclination
- ☐ hankering
- ☐ proclivity
- ☐ im placability
- ☐ unw illingness
- ☐ joviality

108.A cadem ic freedom does not protect a professor’s classroom rem arks on m atters irrelevant to his subject,though it guarantees the professor considerable liberty of speech about m atters _____ to his or her academ ic w ork.

- ☐ germ ane
- ☐ indifferent
- ☐ m im etic
- ☐ disinterested
- ☐ congruent
- ☐ pertinent

109.U nbridled passion,w hether rage or ardor,gives w ay to the sort of rash declarations that too often end in _____ and sorrow .

- ☐ disdain
- ☐ pity
- ☐ rue
- ☐ affinity
- ☐ rem orse
- ☐ contem pt

110.The trem endous w ealth of ancient life on display as part of the A ncient Life of N ew Y ork exhibit— billion-year-old blue-green bacteria from the A dirondacks,fossilized tree stum ps and spiders from Schoharie C ounty,

trilobites from Onondaga County, and armored fish from throughout the state— represents only a tiny fraction of the New York State Museum's _____ collection of over one million specimens.

- ☐ piecemeal
- ☐ voluble
- ☐ exhaustive
- ☐ evergreen
- ☐ compendious
- ☐ commending

111. The representative's violent ascension to prominence began with a _____ attack on the comparatively conciliatory leaders of his own party.

- ☐ truculent
- ☐ partisan
- ☐ savage
- ☐ biased
- ☐ imperious
- ☐ dissembling

112. Even those accustomed to the austere beauty of mathematics may be daunted by the _____ with which Bourbaki conducts his proofs.

- ☐ celerity
- ☐ diligence
- ☐ alacrity
- ☐ asperity
- ☐ inscrutability
- ☐ rigor

113. Even from a distance, the man could see that the tornado had _____ from the site all but the most basic elements of his childhood home; nothing but traces of the original foundations remained.

- ☐ tethered
- ☐ extirpated
- ☐ recapitulated
- ☐ interred
- ☐ effaced
- ☐ hallowed

114. By the third quarter, the opposing team had lost the upper hand entirely, the game becoming an utter _____, a fact made most evident, perhaps, by the escalating jeers coming from the nearby bleachers.

- ☐ debacle
- ☐ rout
- ☐ boondoggle
- ☐ forgery
- ☐ fallacy
- ☐ infirmity

115. Central to the challenger's platform was the argument that the incumbent had ultimately _____ the

agreements he had initially championed during his first stint in office.

- ☐mustered up
- ☐consented to
- ☐fielded
- ☐reneged on
- ☐honed ☐

abrogated

116. The _____ between parties is rapidly becoming insurmountable, as a lack of faith on both sides creates conditions where issues once considered beyond the pale of dispute are becoming subject to contention.

- ☐accord
- ☐prevalence
- ☐rift
- ☐breach
- ☐travesty
- ☐piety

117. _____ though the family now may be, they continue to carry themselves in public with an air befitting their aristocratic heritage.

- ☐Impecunious
- ☐Idyllic
- ☐Glamorous
- ☐Patrimonial
- ☐Bucolic
- ☐Insolvent

118. Lie detector tests attempt to discern _____ by measuring physiological responses, including heart rate, blood pressure, and respiratory rate.

- ☐tenacity
- ☐perspicacity
- ☐precocity
- ☐improbity
- ☐mendacity
- ☐urbanity

119. The golden crown's dazzling _____ is tarnished only by its torrid and bloody history.

- ☐translucence
- ☐variance
- ☐evanescence
- ☐refulgence
- ☐tumescence
- ☐radiance

120. The judge's keen eye for sussing out the pretension of the lawyers in her courtroom was surpassed only by the _____ with which she castigated them for it.

- ☐ sedulous
- ☐ mordant
- ☐ obtuse
- ☐ jurisprudent
- ☐ trenchant
- ☐ assiduous

121. The amount of self-abasement with which the inmate _____ the probation panel to be set free verged on the humiliating; nevertheless, the judges remained unmoved and he was ultimately sent back to his cell to serve another three years.

- ☐ beseeched
- ☐ chided
- ☐ snubbed
- ☐ conceded
- ☐ drummed
- ☐ supplicated

122. The cult members treated their leader with _____ loyalty that verged on the obsessive and made them willing, should the need ever arise, to do so much as lay down their lives for him.

- ☐ a fanatical
- ☐ an arbitrary
- ☐ a fickle
- ☐ a mortifying
- ☐ a zealous
- ☐ an indeterminate

123. Jefferson regarded sumptuous living as among the most _____ evils to threaten the young republic, more pernicious even than loyalty to the deposed empire.

- ☐ reactionary
- ☐ venerable
- ☐ epicurean
- ☐ grievous
- ☐ baneful
- ☐ fastidious

124. Theology was once regarded as the "Queen of the Sciences," because every subject eventually had to meet its demands, but two hundred years ago that honor and title fell to mathematics, which enjoys _____ over not only physical science but social science as well.

- ☐ mayhem
- ☐ credence
- ☐ hegemony
- ☐ autonomy
- ☐ dominance
- ☐ independence

125. The new particles produced by CERN's Large Hadron Collider are _____, lasting a millionth of a billionth of a billionth of a second before disintegrating into photons, quarks, or other particles.

- ☐ ephemeral
- ☐ infinitesimal
- ☐ myriad
- ☐ poignant
- ☐ fleeting
- ☐ countless

126. While the professor first achieved renown for the theory he devised single-handedly during the early days of his career, his later contributions were achieved in a more _____ manner.

- ☐ solitary
- ☐ collaborative
- ☐ synergetic
- ☐ exegetic
- ☐ unilateral
- ☐ collusive

127. While the author's first book was substantial and well-documented, he seems to have run out of material; the follow up is mere _____.

- ☐ pith
- ☐ bile
- ☐ marrow
- ☐ claptrap
- ☐ fettle
- ☐ dross

128. Lady Astor once commented to Winston Churchill, "If I were married to you, I'd put poison in your coffee." Churchill's famous _____: "Nancy, if you were my wife, I'd drink it."

- ☐ anecdote
- ☐ aphorism
- ☐ retort
- ☐ recrimination
- ☐ rejoinder
- ☐ maxim

Sentence E equivalence Answers

1. **Steward, husband.** The “while” tells you that the second part of the sentence will contrast with pushing forward — due to the approaching winter, the colonists need to stay put and *conserve* what they have. Only *steward* and *husband* mean this. *Sell* and *peddle* don’t work because there’s nothing in the sentence to indicate commerce or contrast with it (and why would you sell your resources when a hard winter is coming?) Note that *procure*, which means “get” or “acquire,” doesn’t work because of the word *existing*.

2. **See, distinguish.** This sentence is worded in a tricky way, as the pivot words *but* and *barely* negate each other. Thus, the blank parallels the clue “saw deeply.” (*Proof* here means “proofread” or “edit,” and *galleys* are “drafts of a book about to be published.”) How ironic that an author who sees into the hearts of his characters is practically blind in real life! *Interpret* is an attractive trap, but Joyce had a vision problem, not an intellectual one.

3. **Gore, carnage.** While many of the words make sense, the words *slaughter* and *blood* don’t and the correct pair. *Grief* and *anguish* are an incorrect pair (*grief* is especially weird — generally, other people experience grief after someone dies, rather than a person feeling grief over his own violent death).

4. **Evolving, advancing.** Sometimes a seeming theme trap (*evolving*) is not a trap — this sentence is literally about evolution, and also uses *evolving* as a metaphor. *Fallacious* and *counterfactual* is an incorrect pair that reflects misunderstanding the sentence, which certainly doesn’t say that all science is wrong, just that it is its nature to constantly revise in the face of new information.

5. **Idealistic, quixotic.** Daily arguments with opponents who won’t change their mind and dealing with people who make demands are likely to make someone more realistic about the limited prospects of accomplishing something, or less *idealistic* and *quixotic*, which are synonyms. Arguing with others is not likely to make someone less *contentious* or *dialectical*, but more so. And nothing here implies that the president’s policies are *altruistic* or that he is particularly *tenacious*. Alternatively, you can look at the answer choices. *Idealistic* and *quixotic* form one pair, and *dialectical* and *contentious* form another, so one of those pairs has to be the right answer.

6. **Fledgling, novice.** You need answers that relate to being beginners (or at least not “masters”). *Fledgling* and *novice* both mean “inexperienced.”

7. **Paeon, eulogy.** A *retrospective* would be an exhibit that shows the history and progression of the artist’s work, but this exhibit only shows the good parts (it “glosses over” the weaker work and omits the artist’s “dissolution”). Thus, you need a word that has something to do with “praising.” *Paeon* and *eulogy* are the only matches. Note that a *paeon* is generally a song or speech of praise and is being used a bit metaphorically here. Many people only know *eulogy* as a speech given at a funeral, but can actually refer to any speech (or in this case, art exhibit) of praise.

8. **Flagging, enervated.** After a long, hard practice in hot weather, naturally the players would be tired. *Flagging* and *enervated* are the only choices that mean “tired.”

9. **Olio, mélange.** If it’s a *feast*, there are many different foods involved — thus, you need a word that means “mixture” or “multitude.” *Olio* and *mélange* both mean “mixture” or “medley.”

10. **Bald, overt.** The earlier “evasions and equivocations” are ways to avoid a question or “flip-flop” on an issue. This “latest statement” is “unlike” the evasions and equivocations because it is an *explicit, clear, or obvious* lie. *Bald* and *overt* are the only matches. Note the trap answers *tacit* and *implicit*, which are synonyms that mean the exact opposite (“hinted at, unspoken”) of what you need.
11. **Priggish, punctilious.** You need a word in the blank that is the opposite of the words *lighthearted* and *liveliness and spontaneity*, so something like *strict* would match. *Priggish* and *punctilious* are both related to taking the rules much too seriously.
12. **Bootless, feckless.** You now that Margulies got benched, so his attempt must have been “weak” or “unsuccessful.” Both *bootless* and *feckless* match. Make sure to stick to the clues presented — you have no way to know if Margulies is *restless, indefatigable*, etc. You only know that he was pulled from the game by his coach.
13. **On par with, tantamount to.** The man’s actions are being compared to murder, even though the man says the killing was unintentional (*murder* refers specifically to “deliberate killing”). Thus, you need choices that mean “equivalent to.” Both *on par with* and *tantamount to* match.
14. **Feasible, viable.** You need two words that are like *pragmatic*, which means “practical.” *Feasible* and *viable* relate to the practical considerations of whether the plan is workable or likely to succeed. The only other pair of similar words, *partisan* and *prejudiced*, have the exact incorrect meaning — they are more similar to “ideological” than “pragmatic.”
15. **Puckish, wry.** You need two words that are the opposite of “somewhat somber.” Only *puckish* and *wry* have the sense of being funny or playful.
16. **Fighters, partisans.** The correct pair must follow the clue *armed resistance from civilian*; the word *mercenaries* is an attractive trap, but a mercenary is someone who fights for money (usually for a foreign country), not someone who is “inspired by desperate conditions to fight in their own streets.”
17. **Capricious, erratic.** The clue is “without regard for precedents” — that is, the monarchs made decisions based on their own whims or desires, ignoring any pre-existing standards. *Considered* is the opposite of what you are looking for, and *malicious* and *pessimistic*, while appropriately negative, add new ideas that are not indicated by the sentence.
18. **Flabbergasted, bedazzled.** Since the expedition was *conceived primarily as a mapping project*, the officials would naturally be *amazed* or *surprised* at the *wealth of information on a myriad of topics* that the explorers gathered. Only *flabbergasted* and *bedazzled* convey any type of surprise or awe.
19. **Expeditious, swift.** The pivot indicates that the answers will oppose the clue *quagmire* — that is, Afghanistan’s problems are messy and entrenched. So, what kind of victory is *not* likely? A fast or easy one.
20. **Diversity, mutation.** The geneticists mentioned are studying a population descended from a rather small number of people a rather long time ago. Geneticists — who study genes, of course — would be interested in how this population changed over time (*mutated*) and became different from one another (*diversity*). Note that none of the other answers are logical at all.
21. **Triage, prioritize.** You need two words that match the clue *to metaphorically separate the wheat from the chaff*. (*Chaff* is the “inedible part of wheat that is discarded before the wheat can be made into flour.”) You can also

use the clues regarding *the only way that a person can function given an influx of information*. *Delete* and *eliminate* are attractive traps, but doesn't match the idea of separating *the wheat from the chaff*. Only *triage* (think of what emergency room physicians do) and *prioritize* match.

22. **Tenaciously, doggedly.** Because of the word *Although*, the correct pair must contrast "accommodating." Both *tenaciously* and *doggedly* convey the idea that Orwell refused to back down. Note that the pair *obsequiously* and *sycophantically* are the exact opposite of what you are looking for.

23. **A flabbergasting, a confounding.** The pivot *Although* indicates that the blank will convey something that contrasts with the idea of most people living only to age forty. You need two words that mean something like "surprising." Trap answer *incomprehensible* goes too far — it's interesting that many painters had long lives, but it's not beyond all comprehension.

24. **Gauche, uncouth.** The two words must match the word *ostentatious*. Both *gauche* and *uncouth* get across the idea of showing off in a low-class way (as is often associated with the "newly rich"). Remember not to insert your own opinions — *eccentric* and *idiosyncratic* are near-synonyms, but are a trap.

25. **Ironically, ludicrously.** The pivot word *yet* indicates that a car crash in 1905 was a numerical improbability. You need two words that mean "strangely" or "ridiculously." Only *ironically* and *ludicrously* come close. (Note that the GRE tends to use the word *ironically* rather loosely.)

26. **Depict, mirror.** The images of small waists are contrasted with *overweight Western societies*. The word *not* before the blank indicates that you need two words that mean "represent" or "portray."

27. **Deearth, famine.** The correct pair must the idea of population growth outpacing natural resources — that is, having too many people to be supported by our natural resources. *Famine* and *dearth* are not synonyms (a *famine* is "a prolonged and widespread lack of food," and a *dearth* is "a lack of anything"), but are the only words that match the idea of shortages.

28. **Putative, conjectural.** The sentence indicates that the blank opposes the word *proven*. *Corroborated* and *assayed* are an incorrect pair of words that have meanings similar to *proven*. Only *putative* and *conjectural* have the desired meaning ("alleged, supposed, in theory").

29. **Surprisingly, remarkably.** The pivot word *While* indicates the answers must undermine the *commonly accepted and oft cited* legend. Note that there are two incorrect pairs: *risibly* and *amusingly*, *tragically* and *horribly*. Work off the clue and do not inject opinions or write stories.

30. **Apprising, counseling.** Cassirer "correctly" exposed forgeries to a *credulous* (that is, *gullible*) art world. Thus, he was *helping* or *advising* the art world. Only *apprising* and *counseling* match.

31. **Cunning, subterfuge.** You are told that both Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty engage in "clever deception," though one of them is "upstanding" and the other is not. You simply need a synonym for "clever deception." *Immorality* and *wrongdoing* do not imply anything clever, and *brilliance* does not imply deception. *Cunning* and *subterfuge* both fit.

32. **Transparent, overt.** The etymology of "alpha" is described as "obscure," and the word *while* implies that the etymology of "omega" will be "not obscure." Both *transparent* and *overt* carry this meaning. *Complicated* and

abstruse are the opposite of what you want, and neither *erudite* nor *scholarly* are particularly relevant to the meaning of the sentence.

33. **Vivacious, mirthful.** In this case, *sobriety* means grave or serious, and you are looking for an antonym, something like *happy* or *lively*. *Vivacious* means “lively,” and *mirthful* means “full of joy.” These are correct answers. *Dull* and *lackluster* are the opposites of what you are looking for.

34. **Probity, equity.** There are allegations of preferential treatment or unfairness at the local level, and these are threatening to spill over into criticisms that the system is unfair or partial at the national level. But you are told that the system’s fairness is *not* currently in dispute at that level, so you are looking for synonyms for *fairness* or *impartiality*. The correct answers are *equity* and *probity*.

35. **Silence, quietus.** The answer revolves around understanding the clue, “aghast,” as well as the fact that the politician wants public attention to *wane* (reduce). *Openness* and *transparency* are an incorrect pair. While perhaps a policy of openness might have prevented the politician’s troubles in the first place, there is no indication from the sentence that giving *more* information would cause public interest to *decrease*.

36. **Myrmidons, sycophants.** *A petty man obsessed with — but in perpetual doubt about — his own power* sounds pretty insecure. You have an additional clue about “subordinates.” Correct choices *myrmidons* and *sycophants* both refer to servile followers.

37. **Pacific, placid.** You need two words that are the opposite of “hectic.” You have the additional clue *make up for the stress*. *Pacific* and *placid* both mean *peaceful*.

38. **Desiccated, wizened.** The clues here are very obvious: the man looks even older than his actual age of 70, and as though he had endured 40 years in the desert. *Desiccated* means “dried out,” and *wizened* means “old and withered.” Note trap answer *arid*, which means “dry” — this is a good word to describe a desert, but cannot describe a person.

39. **Risible, farcical.** The children’s attempt at a Mothers Day brunch went pretty badly — so badly that it actually made more work for Mom. What a joke! Correct choices *risible* and *farcical* both mean “laughable.” The word *farcical* is more negative, but these two words are the only choices that fit. Note that the brunch was not *satirical* because it was not making fun of a pre-existing work of art, situation, etc.

40. **Gallivant, traipse.** You need two words that mean “to walk around in a show-ing-off sort of way.” Both *gallivant* and *traipse* indicate this kind of carefree walking. *Sprint* is a trap answer — you certainly don’t have any sense that the student was running very fast.

41. **Passé, archaic.** *Apologists* are defenders — in this case, people who are trying to make the politician and strategist seem like a good guy. However, the clues “in his day” and the lack of interest among a “modern public” indicate that the politician’s views are *outdated*. Only *passé* and *archaic* match. (The accent mark on *passé* exists because the word came into English from French.) Note that trap answer *erroneous* just means “wrong” and doesn’t really fit the clues, nor is it appropriate for discussing matters of culture and opinion.

42. **An ignominious, an unseemly.** Your word here is *disgraced*. *Ignominious* and *unseemly* match well. Note trap answer *defiled*, which does not appropriately describe an action (you could *defile* a holy place by doing something very inappropriate, but for a place or thing to be *defiled*, it should be very pure beforehand.)

43. **B ogged dow n, m ired.** Your clue is that the scandal here is so severe that the company can save itself only through the rather extreme measure of “mass firings.” *Bogged down* and *mired* have the sense of being stuck in something (a *bog* and a *mir*e are both physical things — swampy, quicksand-like patches). Note trap answer *allowing* — only a person or animal can *allow* (and anyone *allowing* wouldn’t *want* to “regain favor” anyway).

44. **Teeming, abounding.** This terrible battle seems to have killed everything (“razed,” “eerie stillness”). In contrast, the streets and squares were once “full of” or “bustling with” (that is, *teeming* or *abounding* with) life.

45. **Curtailing, undermining.** By “obviating,” or “getting around,” the traditional channels of legislation, the government is making formal dissent impossible. In other words, it is *curtailing* or *undermining* such dissent — words which both mean to “prevent” or “undercut.”

46. **Amyriad, plethora.** The virus spread to a large number (a *myriad*, a *plethora*) of bird species. Watch out for trap answer *surplus*, which means “an excess” and would not be appropriate to describe bird species.

47. **Ramshackle, dilapidated.** The key to this question is the phrase “tolerated presence,” which indicates that the “abodes,” or houses, are different from the “opulent estates.” The pivot phrase “aside from” also provides a nice clue. *Ramshackle* and *dilapidated*, which both mean “run-down,” are best. *Archaic*, meaning “old” or “old-fashioned,” is close, but doesn’t possess the same connotations of disrepair or neglect that the two correct answers do.

48. **Defector, quisling.** Hints to this answer are “revolutionary spirit” and “insurgent militia,” both of which indicate an abandonment of a cause for the opposing one: thus *quisling* and *defector*, both of which denote traitors, are best.

49. **An impasse, a stalemate.** If neither side of the debate is willing to give an inch to the other, then it would be impossible for a solution to be found. So the debate is more or less frozen. Both *a confrontation* and *an engagement* imply some kind of clash, but the sentence implies that any kind of serious clashing is now over (*no one had anything new to offer*). *An impasse* and *a stalemate* reflect the static nature of the conflict.

50. **Excruciating, torturous.** The sensation produced by kidney stones is compared to the “agony of childbirth,” so you know you’re looking for a word that means “painful.” *Painstaking*, however, means “done with great care,” and *tortuous* means “full of twists and turns.” Both *excruciating* and *torturous* correctly describe terrible pain.

51. **Champion, proponent.** The second half of this sentence (after the semicolon) tells you that Chris Anderson charges money for his products, and is introduced by an ironic “interesting.” This makes it likely that he *supports* the idea of information being free. *Champion* and *proponent* both imply support (*detractor* and *critic* are a pair with the opposite meaning of what you want).

52. **Strong suit, forte.** The word *hile* tells you that you’re going to take the opposite of something — in this case, the fact that the director is “very good” at a lot of stuff. However, the phrase “not at all” will twist you back in the opposite direction, so you need a word for the blank that means something like “strength.” *Strong suit* and *forte* both fit perfectly. *Hobby* and *pastime* are a pair, but they don’t work here, as this is clearly the director’s job. Similarly, *weakness* and *deficiency* are a pair, but the opposite of what you want.

53. **Innovation, novelty.** *Though* tells you that the advent of carbon fiber brought something opposite to “old” or “adapted” technology. You’re looking for words that describe something new or original.

54. **Esoteric, arcane.** Whatever else Kabbalah and theosophy are, they are Western religious traditions, and they must

be mystical themselves if they *suggest that it is wrong to associate mysticism only with the East*. So you want words that mean something like “mystical.” *Esoteric* and *arcane* are the only good answers.

55. Acculturation, assimilation. The structure of this sentence demands a little extra attention. It is those who do not embrace the values of their homeland who do worse academically, so it is they who pay the price. What *comes at a price*, then, is embracing the culture of the new home. You want words that name the process of becoming part of a new land and culture.

56. Specious, spurious. If Machiavelli only “pretended” to endorse the claims to power, and if they were subject to exposure and caricature, they must have been not only illegitimate but ridiculous. None of the answers suggests ridiculousness, but two answers — *specious* and *spurious* — mean the claims are false. While not synonyms, both words describe claims that are superficially attractive, but in fact false.

57. Disingenuous, artful. You want a word that means “not as naïve as one pretends.” *Disingenuous* means precisely that, and one meaning of *artful* is “deceptive.” This sentence is difficult because the word *impressed* is used to refer to making an impression in a negative way. Finally, *culpable* means “guilty” and is an attractive trap, but goes further than the clues in the sentence allow you. The clues clearly indicate that you need words that mean “not naïve.”

58. Delineate, stipulate. A realistic understanding of the “boons and perils,” or advantages and disadvantages, of the new drug requires that people know when they should and should not use it. In other words, the “contexts and symptoms” that are appropriate for taking the drug should be *delineated* or *stipulated*, both of which mean “described” or “specified.”

59. Flagitious, heinous. First, you read that in the view of the commanding British officer, Adams and Hancock had committed “offenses,” so you might anticipate a word like *offensive*. Second, they were the only rebels whom he would not pardon or forgive, so he considered their behavior “unpardonable, unforgivable.” If you put these all together we’ll get something like “unforgivably offensive.” Both *flagitious* and *heinous* match this meaning. *Boorish* means something like “crude,” but is much too weak a word to fit this sentence.

60. Naïve, callow. *Otherwise* suggests that Gottlieb did not find Steinbeck’s political views admirable. “Adolescent disaffection” suggests that he found Steinbeck’s views in some sense immature, so look for negative words that mean something like “immature.” *Naïve* and *callow* are the best options. *Perspicacious* and *keen* both suggest insight, nearly opposite of what we’ve anticipated. *Contemptible* is negative, but with no suggestion of immaturity — make sure to use the clues provided without adding your own ideas. (Note that *naïve* is sometimes written with two dots over the “i,” as in the original French, and sometimes without.)

61. Torpid, saturnine. The employees who *get* the work are — based on the clue *alacrity* — cheerful and ready for more. Thus, they must be getting assigned work left undone by employees who are, by contrast, either lazy or slow. Both *torpid* and *saturnine* work (*saturnine* can also mean “gloomy,” but here it is being used to mean “sluggish”). Note that *sedulous* and *solicitous* are the exact opposite of what you want here.

62. Shrewd, penetrating. You are looking for an antonym for *inkling*, which means “only a hint of something.” Instead, you want something that would make Camus’s understanding complete or thorough, which is what *shrewd* or *penetrating* would mean when combined with *understanding*. *Elementary* and *inchoate* are on the same side as *inkling* in this context and are the opposite of what you want.

63. Full-bore, wholehearted. Since private funding is hard to get (the expression “right and left” means “everywhere, all around”), the researcher was happy that he or she no longer had to pursue this private funding — suddenly, the

research is being paid for — *subsidized* — by the government! *Full-bore* and *wholly* both mean “entirely.” Trap answer *impeccably* (perfectly, spotlessly) is positive but inappropriate to describe the government’s paying for something.

64. **Contrite, penitential.** Criminal defendants want to look good in front of the judge by showing that *not all moral sympathy is lost on them*. This implies that the defendants are not necessarily innocent, so *vindicated* doesn’t work. What you want are words meaning “remorseful, apologetic.” Only *contrite* and *penitential* work.

65. **Flag, ebb.** Given the clues “hours of tedious test taking” and “exhausted,” you can surmise that the student’s *acuity* (mental sharpness) would decrease — that is, *flag* or *ebb*.

66. **Skeptical, leery.** The word *Despite* at the beginning of the sentence means that the blank must oppose the encouragement of a “con artist” (someone who tricks people out of money) — something like *doubtful*. (A *mark* is someone who is a target of a criminal or con artist). *Skeptical* and *leery* work, although *leery* is more negative.

67. **Tractable, amenable.** The correct choices must match “agreeable” and oppose “implacable unwillingness.” While *naïve* and *innocent* relate to the clue “ingénue,” they do not take into account the clues in the sentence, about seeming “supine” but actually being stubborn.

68. **Apocryphal, spurious.** The clue is *rumor or mongers* and the correct pair both mean “false, doubtful, or unsubstantiated.” You have no way to know if the reports were *sentimental*, *saccharine*, or *scandalous*. Trap answer *apocalyptic* ignores the clues in the sentence, and is inappropriate for an event involving only one person, even if the outcome were tragic.

69. **Contemptible, scurvy.** The correct answers, given the pivot word *while*, must oppose the clue *virtuous*. While agitprop theater may be *faddish*, *sophisticated*, or *scintillating*, no clues in the sentence indicate any of these. *Glib* is negative but means “superficially fluent” and is inappropriate here (a person or remark can be *glib*).

70. **Lax, slack.** The answers must parallel *slouching posture and cavalier attitude*. Note that *cavalier* is used here to mean “offhand or disdainful.” Thus, *aristocratic* is a bit of a trap answer, as are *murderous* and *barbarous*, which don’t match the clues — while this person’s actions caused *horrific loss of life*, it doesn’t sound as though that was his intention. The clues indicate he’s just a slacker.

71. **Quack, shyster.** A *quack* is a “fraudulent doctor” and a *shyster* is a “con man” (in medicine or any field), so both work here. *Sap* and *dupe* are synonyms (suckers, people who have been tricked) that describe the people who fell for the doctor’s potion, not the doctor and his reputation.

72. **Dally, tarry.** Given the clue that they were already late, delay would be a good focus. The incorrect pair, *lurk* and *skulk*, have a negative, furtive connotation — they are related to hanging around for some bad reason. Did the couple *embrace*? You don’t know. Avoid choices that make literal sense but cannot be justified by the clues.

73. **Appellations, sobriquets.** The spin of this sentence is positive — “staunch admirers” — and you learn that the player’s *given name was all but forgotten* (the expression “all but” means something like “99%”). So, you need two words like *nickname*. *Monikers* and *aliases* are types of names, but false ones. *Nomenclature* is off because it emphasizes “new,” as in a “brand new word,” rather than a “nickname.”

74. **Indigenous, native.** The answers must describe the American Indian population discussed in the sentence. *Native*

may be obvious; *indigenous* means the same thing. Note that *sm allpox* could be a *pandemic*, but that word does not belong in the blank.

75. Extremoparaneous, impromptu. “Badly miscalculated” indicates that there are two opposing parts of the sentence: the candidate’s “prepared speeches” are good, but some other type of answers are bad. You need two words that mean “improvvised” or “off-the-cuff.” Note that *lubricious* and *disingenuous* form a pair relating to dishonesty that is unrelated to the clues and might be a trap (if you insert your own, negative ideas about politicians). *Premeditated* is the opposite of what you want.

76. Equivocate, vacillate. Given the pivot phrase “even though,” the answers must oppose “act immediately” and the Farragut quote. *Divagate* is a trap — it means “to wander or digress,” especially in speech, and so doesn’t quite work here. *Weep* and *wail* are a pair, but are not justified by the clues in the sentence.

77. Abjured, forwent. Since the hedge fund founder is doing something to avoid a long prison term, and because of the clue “former role,” you know that she “gave up” that role. *Abjured* and *forwent* both work here. Be precise — *reneged* means “to break a promise.” A leader can be *deposed*, but you don’t *depose* a role. The hedge fund founder may be being *censured* (probably worse), but it doesn’t make sense for her to *censure* (disapprove of, reprimand) her role.

78. Slight, gibe. The words *even if* signal a change in the meaning of the sentence, so you need a word for the blank that is the opposite of *anodyne*, which can mean “alleviating pain,” but here means “not likely to provoke offense.” *Compliment* and *panegyric* both have positive connotations, so they can’t work here. Only *slight* and *gibe* have the required negativity.

79. Perfidy, treachery. The most important word in this sentence is the word *friend*, implying that Anna Cumpana betrayed Dillinger. *Nosiness* and *meddling* are a reasonable pair, but they don’t fit with the fact that Anna Cumpana was Dillinger’s friend. Only *perfidy* and *treachery* correctly fit the sentence.

80. Ubiquity, omnipresence. This is a tough sentence, because it seems to be about money. But while *cost* could work if it had a pair word, *expenditure* means only “an amount of money spent,” so it can’t work here. You need something else for the blank that would lead you to think the company would make a lot of money. If it can’t be the cost of each unit, it has to be the number of units sold. *Ubiquity* and *omnipresence* fit this meaning. *Construction* and *aesthetics* are not enough of a pair, and they don’t inherently explain why the company would be raking in cash.

81. Tacit, implicit. The word *though* always sets up a contrast, so you need something for the blank that means the opposite of “physically described in rulebooks.” Both *tacit* and *implicit* mean “implied, but not plainly expressed.” *Unambiguous* and *blatant* have the opposite charge.

82. Extraneous, peripheral. You have the word *whereas* in this sentence, which implies a change in direction. So if the critically-acclaimed directors see characterization and emotional development as “critical,” Michael Bay should find them unimportant (at least according to the reviewer). *Important* and *intrinsic* are the opposite of what you want. *Extraneous* and *peripheral* both fit the meaning you need.

83. Confounded, flummoxed. Because you know that the puzzle in question is *one of the more difficult* puzzles, you would expect Sandra to be, well, “puzzled” by it. *Enraged* and *incensed* are an intriguing pair, but you have no reason to believe Sandra was made angry by the puzzles. *Smitten* can’t work here because the correct idiom is “smitten with.” *Impressed* could work, but it doesn’t have a pair to match with. *Confounded* and *flummoxed* are the best choices.

84. **Specious, meretricious.** This is a complex sentence, and the meaning of the first part is dependent on what comes after the semicolon. There you see that if you only looked shallowly at the two parties, you'd see dishonesty on both sides, but if you looked more deeply, you'd see that one side is worse. Both *specious* and *meretricious* mean "apparently attractive, but having in reality no value," which fits perfectly. *Sophomoric* means "juvenile or immature," which is not indicated by the sentence.
85. **Approbation, plaudits.** You learn in the second half of this sentence that the documentarian received "money" and "acclaim," while the subject of the documentary did not. Either one could go in the blank, but because you know it's coming "from the critics," it needs to match up with "acclaim" (critics don't give "money"). Both *approbation* and *plaudits* fit this meaning. *Opprobrium* and *fulmination* are the opposite of what you want, and *wealth* and *capital* don't fit the meaning of the sentence.
86. **Exculpate, vindicate.** This sentence tells you that Morris's film proves that its subject did not commit the crime in question. This implies that the film proved his innocence. Both *exculpate* and *vindicate* mean to "clear someone of blame or suspicion." *Liberate* and *manumit* are close, but both have the idea of freedom without freeing from blame (and *manumit* is technically only used for when someone is freed from slavery). *Excuse* means "to lessen the blame" or "forgive someone for a fault," but not to prove they were not at fault in the first place.
87. **Beguiled by, enamored with.** For the schemes to "prey" on people, those people would need to want what is being advertised. *Beguiled by* and *enamored with* mean "lured by or infatuated with." *Obsessed by* and *possessed by* go too far. *Aggrieved by* and *vexed by* are negative (if you were *vexed* by quick riches and fancy trips, you wouldn't be easy prey, and also you'd be really weird).
88. **Equanimity, sangfroid.** You need something for the blank that a "great soul" would do in the face of turmoil and tribulation. Since *in the face of* indicates opposite direction, the meaning is something like "remain calm." *Conviction* (a firmly held belief) might work, but it has no partner. *Self-esteem* and *pride* are a pair, but they don't make much sense in the sentence. *Equanimity* and *sangfroid* both imply an inner tranquility.
89. **An incipient, a nascent.** While the environmental movement is said to have been around awhile, the second half of the sentence says that it "only recently" become "a serious organization." This means that the answer choices *disorganized* and *nebulous* don't quite work. The other pair, *inconsequential* and *immaterial*, is needlessly negative. *Incipient* and *nascent* capture the idea that, while the movement has been around for a while, it is only just now becoming a serious and relevant organization.
90. **Bolstered, buttressed.** It is critical to work out here whether the physicists mentioned at the end of the sentence were for or against Einstein's theory. You know that the idea went from "purely experiential" to "theoretically" something. There's a contrast here, and the contrast is not between right and wrong. It is between something that has been shown by experiment and something that has been understood theoretically. This means the later scientists are providing support for Einstein. *Undermined* and *sabotaged* are negative, while *condoned* and *pardoned* don't make much sense. Only *bolstered* and *buttressed* correctly express the idea of support.
91. **Clamor, din.** You can assume that there would be a lot of "noise" at the edge of a stage, which would explain why someone couldn't be heard. *Clamor* and *din* both fit the sentence. *Rabble* and *host* both mean "crowd," which is something you might not be able to hear over, but they don't make nearly as good a choice. *Music* is a little too specific; don't add new ideas to the sentence.
92. **Artless, ingenuous.** The first half of this sentence tells you that you're going to focus primarily on the painter's personality. You then need something that contrasts with either "pretentious" or "pontificating." *Artless* and *ingenuous*, meaning "without effort or pretentiousness," are perfect. *Shrewd*, *adroit*, and *artful* are all positive

w ords, but they don't contrast with "pretentious" or "pontificating."

93. **Trite, hackneyed.** The beginning of the sentence says the movie "wasn't exactly bad," implying that you're going to get a word that isn't the opposite of bad, but that qualifies it in some way. Later in the sentence, you get a more specific addition: *they were all jokes you'd heard before*. You need words that match with that definition. Both *trite* and *hackneyed* fit that meaning. *Atrocious* and *egregious* mean the same thing as "bad," so they don't work. And while *am using* and *witty* make a pair, they're the opposite of what you want.

94. **U nderpins, undergirds.** The second half of this sentence describes how aesthetics are a major part of the work of the company, so you need a word for the blank that means something like "perm eates." *Saturates* is close, but it has no partner (*irradiate* means either "to expose to radiation" or "to illuminate"). *U nderpins* and *undergirds* fit the meaning of the sentence perfectly.

95. **Thw arted, underm ined.** The end of this sentence makes it clear that the teachers in question are not happy about having to stick to a prescribed curriculum. *C rushed, confounded, w alloped, and torm ented* are all negative, but all of them miss the meaning of the sentence (and no two of them make a good pair). *C rushed* means "emotionally devastated" and tends to apply to things that happen all at once — a breakup, not getting a promotion, etc.

96. **P alliating, assuaging.** The first half of the sentence explains that lowering interest rates can create financial stability, so this would allow the Fed to make a crisis "better." *Exacerbating* and *com pounding* are the opposite of what you want, and *annihilating* goes too far. Only *palliating* and *assuaging* correctly fit the meaning here.

97. **L aconic, curt.** The words *even though* set up a contrast, so you need something that contrasts with *roles that involved a lot of lines*. A character without a lot of lines would be *quiet*. *M elancholy* and *dejected* imply sadness, but not necessarily a refusal to speak (Hamlet is pretty depressed, and he talks all the time). *M ute* goes too far. *L aconic* and *curt* both match with the meaning you're seeking. Note that *curt* has the sense of being rudely short with people, whereas *laconic* is not necessarily negative.

98. **L im pidity, lucidity.** The word *whereas* sets up a contrast with *dense* and *abstruse* (the latter of which means "difficult to understand"), so you need a word that means something like "clarity." *Sagacity* and *prow ess* both imply skill, but you need something that also implies a kind of simplicity. *Lim pidity* and *lucidity* fit the bill perfectly.

99. **P lacated, m ollified.** For this sentence, you need to infer how the beauty queen's mother likely felt about her daughter being disqualified — namely, badly. The conjunction "and" signals that the second half is going to match the tone of the first half (as opposed to something like "but"), so the blank needs to be something showing that the mother is still not happy. *Placated* and *m ollified* both fit the meaning. *Am eliorated* is close, but only a problem can be *am eliorated*, not a person.

100. **M elancholy, m orose.** The key to this sentence comes at the very end, when you learn that Hamlet is not "paralyzed with depression." We've already read in the middle part of the sentence that he is not paralyzed, so the depression part must come from the blank. *Indecisive* and *m onologic* both fit the famous character of Hamlet, but they don't fit the sentence (nor do they make a pair). Similarly, *violent* and *barbaric* would be accurate in describing Hamlet, but they don't fit the sentence. Only *m elancholy* and *m orose* match the meaning you want.

101. **A nom alous, aberrant.** The word *once* here signals a change in the direction of meaning. As the sentence ends with the idea that the behaviors in question were once "considered fairly normal," you need something for the blank that means "uncommon." *M ythical* and *fabulous* may seem to fit, but they're too extreme. *Anom alous* and *aberrant* work much better.

102. **M undane,quotidian.** The blank here needs to contrast with “the fantastical.” *M undane* and *quotidian* both fit. *Bom bastic* and *belletristic* both may correctly describe the writing style of Proust, but they don’t match the meaning of the sentence.

103. **P ith,gist.** In this sentence, the key words are “very busy woman,” implying the editor doesn’t have a lot of free time. That means it would be necessary to get right to the *most important part* of the issue. *Conclusion* and *culmination* are a pair, but they mean “the end,” which isn’t quite right. *Pith* and *gist* are a much better match for the blank.

104. **B urgeon,m ushroom .** The word *while* signals a change in direction, and the second half of the sentence is negative (something is coming “too late”), so you need something in the blank that is positive. In the case of environmental concern, that would be “more of it.” Both *burgeon* and *mushroom* fit that meaning. *Disseminate* is close, but it has no pair (*promulgate* means “to make something widely known,” not “to become widely known”), and the concern isn’t spreading out so much as growing.

105. **An explicit,an overt.** This sentence doesn’t give you much to go on for meaning, but odds are good that if your enemy moves to the border, you see it as a pretty “direct act of aggression.” *Explicit* and *overt* both fit this meaning. *Bellicose* and *belligerent* are a pair, but they would be redundant (“A *belligerent* act of aggression”).

106. **Inevitably,unavoidably.** The clues here are pretty blatant — *Time stops for no man* and *just as had every preceding style of music*. In other words, everything always goes pretty much the same way.

107. **H ankering,proclivity.** The word *and* suggests that the phrases before and after the conjunction will agree. Isherwood has “fellow feeling for the laboring classes,” that is he is sympathetic with working people, and so wants to “engage as an equal” with them. You should anticipate a word like *desire*. *H ankering* and *proclivity* are the nearest synonyms. *Disinclination* and *unwillingness* are the opposite of what you want (*im placability* is also negative). *Joviality* might seem attractive, but is more extreme than your clue of “fellow feeling.”

108. **G erm ane,pertinent.** *Though* implies that the matters about which a professor enjoys liberty are opposite those “irrelevant to his subject.” So you might anticipate an answer like “relevant.” *G erm ane* and *pertinent* are the best synonyms. *Mimetic* and *congruent* are slightly related to the idea at hand — the former means “copying” (like a mime, for instance) and the latter means something like “standing in a similar relation.”

109. **R ue,rem orse.** You would like an answer very much close to “sorrow,” perhaps something like “regret.” *Rue* and *remorse* are the nearest synonyms.

110. **E xhaustive,com pendious.** Since the *tremendous wealth... on display* represents *only a tiny fraction* of the collection, and since the collection has *over one million specimens*, it is a very large collection indeed. You might anticipate an answer like “huge.” *Exhaustive*, which means “including everything,” is a bit stronger even than anticipated, but it will work. The primary meaning of *compendious* is something like “synoptic, briefly stating all the essentials,” and that’s not what you want, but *compendious* can also mean simply “complete.” The primary meaning is the one you’re most likely to encounter on the GRE, but in this question, you should take the other meaning, “complete.” (The meaning you rely on for this question, incidentally, is most common even in formal writing, though it’s not first in the dictionary.) Im perfect though both these answers are, nothing else is even close.

111. **Truculent,savage.** You’d like a word that contrasts with *conciliatory*, since the word *comparatively* suggests an opposition. You’d also like a word that sensibly modifies *attack*. You might anticipate something as simple as

“attacking.” *Truculent* and *savage* both suggest a disposition to fight.

112. **A sperity, rigor.** *Even* implies that the word is stronger than *austere*, though similar to that word. The word names something in Bourbaki’s proof that daunts or intimidates. You might anticipate something like “great difficulty.” *Asperity* means “severity,” which will work (it especially suggests a rough or harsh surface). *Rigor* is an even closer synonym to “austerity.”

113. **E xtirpated, effaced.** This sentence is about as purely definition-based as you can get: the house was torn from the ground and utterly destroyed. You need words that signify “eradicated” or “obliterated”; *extirpated* and *effaced* are right.

114. **D ebacle, rout.** The team once had an “upper hand” and is now losing badly. You need words that denote a “crushing failure,” or a “drubbing.” *Debacle* and *rout* are good, and none of the other words come close. Note that a *boondoggle* is certainly bad, but it is an unnecessary and wasteful project, and thus not relevant here.

115. **R eneged on, abrogated.** The political challenger is apparently saying that the “incumbent,” or “current” politician made certain agreements during his first time in office, but didn’t follow through on them. The politician, in other words, “went back on,” or “failed to honor” these agreements: he *reneged on* them, or *abrogated* them.

116. **R ift, breach.** *Beyond the pale of dispute* indicates that there were issues that were once totally accepted by both parties. Now they are “subject to contention,” indicating that there is a widening “gap,” or “fissure,” between the parties: a *rift* or a *breach* between them.

117. **Im pecunious, insolvent.** This sentence trickily hinges on the idiom *though they now may be*, which indicates that whatever comes after the comma is opposite in meaning to the blank. You learn next that that family seems to act as if they are still aristocrats. The implication is that they are then *not* aristocrats, or at least don’t have the same wealth that aristocrats are known to have. You’re thus looking for a word that means “poor” or “impoverished.” *Impecunious*, which comes from *pecunia*, Latin word for “money,” and *insolvent*, which means “unable to pay debts,” are best.

118. **Im probity, mendacity.** Fortunately, this sentence is pretty straightforward — you need two words that mean “lying.” Only *mendacity* and *improbity* work.

119. **R efulgence, radiance.** Even though this sentence is short, its tough vocabulary makes it tricky. It is clear enough from the word *dazzling* that you’re looking for a word that means “brightness” or “brilliance.” *Refulgence* and *radiance* are best; none of the other words match this meaning.

120. **M ordant, trenchant.** The best clue in this sentence is its parallel structure. The judge’s “keen eye” was surpassed only by her “_____ wit.” *Keen* means “sharply discerning,” so you should be looking for words that denote a “sharpness,” or “bitingness,” of wit. *Mordant* and *trenchant*, both of which are close in meaning to “incisive,” are best. Don’t be confused by the other set of synonyms, *assiduous* and *sedulous*, both of which have meanings close to “diligent.”

121. **B eseeched, supplicated.** The inmate is “begging, pleading, imploring” the probation panel to be set free. *Beseeched* and *supplicated* are closest to this meaning.

122. **A fanatical, a zealous.** The loyalty of the cult members verged on the obsessive and thus was extremely intense.

You're looking for words similar in meaning to "extreme," or "diehard." *Fanatical* and *zealous* are best here.

123. **Grievous, baneful.** The "evils" described by this word are "more pernicious" than ... well, it doesn't even really matter — you want a word like *pernicious*. Perhaps "very bad." *Grievous*, which means "causing grief," or "very harmful," will work. *Baneful* is an even closer synonym to *pernicious*. Note the trap word *epicurean*, which relates to fine food and wine (and thus to this sentence), but which is positive and does not fit the blank.

124. **Hegemony, dominance.** Just as once every subject eventually had to meet (theology's) demands, now not only physical science but social science must meet mathematics' demands. This suggests that mathematics enjoys something like "rule" over these fields; the phrase *Queen of the Sciences* suggests the same, and perhaps a sort of "autocratic rule." *Hegemony* usually describes the "dominance of one state over others," but can also mean "the dominance of one social group, political party, etc." *Dominance* will also work. If you anticipated precisely the word *autocratic*, *autonomy* might be attractive, but it doesn't actually work: *autocratic* describes government by a single person with unlimited powers, while *autonomy* means "self-governance."

125. **Ephemeral, fleeting.** Something lasting a millionth of a billionth of a billionth of a second is "very short-lived." *Ephemeral* and *fleeting* have just this meaning. In real life, the particles may be small (*infinitesimal*), there may be a lot of them (*myriad*, *countless*), and they may bring a tear to the eye of a few scientists (*poignant*), but none of these are indicated by clues in the sentence.

126. **Collaborative, synergetic.** The pivot word *while* tells you that the later contributions were achieved in a manner opposite to "single-handedly." You need two words that mean "cooperative." Note that trap answers *solitary* and *unilateral* are the opposite of what you need, and *collusive* has the wrong spin — to *collude* is to "cooperate for illegal or fraudulent purposes."

127. **Claptrap, dross.** You need two words that contrast with *substantial* and match the idea of running out of material. *Claptrap* is "pretentious but insincere language," and *dross* is "refuse, garbage." *Pith* and possibly *marrow* are a strange pair — *pith* is "the essence," and *marrow* (the substance inside of bones) can sometimes be used metaphorically in a similar way (to "suck the marrow out of life"), but it wouldn't make sense to say that a book lacks substance if it does, in fact, contain the most important parts.

128. **Retort, rejoinder.** You need two words describing a witty comeback. *Retort* and *rejoinder* are perfect. *Recreation* is too strong. A witty reply is not an *anecdote*, nor is it an *aphorism* or *maxim* (which, like proverbs, contain some general truth or wisdom and do not have to be funny).